

(d) *Are program expenditures subject to audit?* All expenditures by the grantee of Federal and Non-Federal funds, including expenditures from excess locally generated contributions, are subject to audit by the Corporation, its Inspector General, or their authorized agents.

[64 FR 14135, Mar. 24, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 6875, Feb. 14, 2002]

§ 2553.73 What are grants management requirements?

What rules govern a sponsor's management of grants?

(a) A sponsor shall manage a grant awarded in accordance with:

- (1) The Act;
- (2) Regulations in this part;
- (3) 45 CFR Part 2541, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments", or 45 CFR Part 2543, "Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations";

(4) The following OMB Circulars, as appropriate A-21, "Cost Principles for Educational Institutions", A-87, "Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments", A-122, "Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations", and A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Other Non-Profit Organizations" (OMB circulars are available electronically at the OMB homepage www.whitehouse.gov/WH/EOP/omb); and

(5) Other applicable Corporation requirements.

(b) Project support provided under a Corporation grant shall be furnished at the lowest possible cost consistent with the effective operation of the project.

(c) Project costs for which Corporation funds are budgeted must be justified as being essential to project operation.

(d) Project funds shall not be used to reimburse volunteers for expenses, including transportation costs, incurred while performing their volunteer assignments. Volunteers on assignment during a normal meal period may be reimbursed for the meal cost. Equipment or supplies for volunteers on assignment are not allowable costs. Assign-

ment related costs of transportation, equipment, supplies, etc. are the responsibility of the volunteer station or a third party.

(e) Volunteer expense items, including transportation, meals, recognition activities and items purchased at the volunteers own expense that are not reimbursed, are not allowable as contributions to the non-Federal share of the budget.

(f) Costs of other insurance not required by program policy, but maintained by a sponsor for the general conduct of its activities are allowable with the following limitations:

(1) Types and extent of and cost of coverage are according to sound institutional and business practices;

(2) Costs of insurance or a contribution to any reserve covering the risk of loss of or damage to Government-owned property are unallowable unless the government specifically requires and approves such costs; and

(3) The cost of insurance on the lives of officers, trustees or staff is unallowable except where such insurance is part of an employee plan which is not unduly restricted.

(g) Costs to bring a sponsor into basic compliance with accessibility requirements for individuals with disabilities are not allowable costs.

(h) Payments to settle discrimination allegations, either informally through a settlement agreement or formally as a result of a decision finding discrimination, are not allowable costs.

(i) Written Corporation State Office approval/concurrence is required for a change in the approved service area.

[64 FR 14135, Mar. 24, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 6875, Feb. 14, 2002]

Subpart H—Non-Corporation Funded Projects

§ 2553.81 Under what conditions may an agency or organization sponsor a RSVP project without Corporation funding?

An eligible agency or organization who wishes to sponsor a RSVP project without Corporation funding, must sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Corporation that:

(a) Certifies its intent to comply with all Corporation requirements for the

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Retired and Senior Volunteer Program; and

(b) Identifies responsibilities to be carried out by each party.

§ 2553.82 What benefits are a non-Corporation funded project entitled to?

(a) All technical assistance and materials provided to Corporation-funded RSVP projects; and

(b) The application of the provisions of 42 U.S.C. 5044 and 5058.

§ 2553.83 What financial obligation does the Corporation incur for non-Corporation funded projects?

Entry into a Memorandum of Agreement with, or issuance of an NGA to a sponsor of a non-Corporation funded project does not create a financial obligation on the part of the Corporation for any costs associated with the project.

§ 2553.84 What happens if a non-Corporation funded sponsor does not comply with the Memorandum of Agreement?

A non-Corporation funded project sponsor's noncompliance with the Memorandum of Agreement may result in suspension or termination of the Corporation's agreement and all benefits specified in § 2553.82.

Subpart I—Restrictions and Legal Representation

§ 2553.91 What legal limitations apply to the operation of the RSVP Program and to the expenditure of grant funds?

(a) *Political activities.* (1) No part of any grant shall be used to finance, directly or indirectly, any activity to influence the outcome of any election to public office, or any voter registration activity.

(2) No project shall be conducted in a manner involving the use of funds, the provision of services, or the employment or assignment of personnel in a matter supporting or resulting in the identification of such project with:

(i) Any partisan or nonpartisan political activity associated with a candidate, or contending faction or group, in an election; or

(ii) Any activity to provide voters or prospective voters with transportation to the polls or similar assistance in connection with any such election; or

(iii) Any voter registration activity, except that voter registration applications and nonpartisan voter registration information may be made available to the public at the premises of the sponsor. But in making registration applications and nonpartisan voter registration information available, employees of the sponsor shall not express preferences or seek to influence decisions concerning any candidate, political party, election issue, or voting decision.

(3) The sponsor shall not use grant funds in any activity for the purpose of influencing the passage or defeat of legislation or proposals by initiative petition, except:

(i) In any case in which a legislative body, a committee of a legislative body, or a member of a legislative body requests any volunteer in, or employee of such a program to draft, review or testify regarding measures or to make representation to such legislative body, committee or member; or

(ii) In connection with an authorization or appropriations measure directly affecting the operation of the RSVP Program.

(b) *Nondisplacement of employed workers.* A RSVP volunteer shall not perform any service or duty or engage in any activity which would otherwise be performed by an employed worker or which would supplant the hiring of or result in the displacement of employed workers, or impair existing contracts for service.

(c) *Compensation for service.* (1) An agency or organization to which NSSC volunteers are assigned, or which operates or supervises any NSSC program, shall not request or receive any compensation from NSSC volunteers or from beneficiaries for services of NSSC volunteers.

(2) This section does not prohibit a sponsor from soliciting and accepting voluntary contributions from the community at large to meet its local support obligations under the grant; or, from entering into agreements with parties other than beneficiaries to support additional volunteers beyond